

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

AID-20 IGA-02 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

OMB-01 EB-11 MC-02 TRSE-00 COME-00 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 022547

R 041630Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5567

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAHIGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, DM, US

SUBJECT: DAHOMEY'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) COTONOU 0060; (B) COTONOU A-27; (C) STATE 013191

ABIDJAN FOR DEFATT

1. AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT WE CAN CONSIDER MRGD'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FORWARDED IN REFERENCE (B) WITHDRAWN AT NO COST TO OUR RELATIONS WITH DAHOMEY.

2. DURING FRIENDLY TOUR D'HORIZON OCTOBER 4 WITH MRGD PRESIDENT KEREKOU ON AID PROJECTS, OUR EFFORTS TO ATTRACT U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND SELF-HELP PROGRAMS, I DISCUSSED SUBJECT REQUEST. DRAWING ON REFERENCE (C) AND VERY HELPFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH EUCOM REPRESENTATIVES LTCOL. BICKSTON AND CDR. ROSENDAHL WHO VISITED COTONOU SEPTEMBER 28, I POINTED OUT THAT GRANT AID NOT AVAILABLE, AND THAT MOOD OF CONGRESS IN POST-VIETNAM PERIOD TOWARDS REDUCING MILITARY EXPENDITURES RULED OUT POSSIBILITY OF SUCH AID IN FUTURE. AS FOR FMS PROGRAM FOR WHICH DAHOMEY IS ELIGIBLE, I SAID I PRESUMED THIS WOULD PLACE AN INTOLERABLE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE MRGD, AND THEREFORE DID NOT WISH TO
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RECOMMEND THIS AVENUE WITHOUT CONSULTING THE PRESIDENT. I

THEN NOTED THAT FRG AMBASSADOR WAND HAD RECEIVED A SIMILAR REQUEST, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD A MILITARY GRANT-AID PROGRAM, AND THAT WAND HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED MRGD REQUEST IN BONN AND HOPED SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO HELP. IN VIEW OF THIS, I SUGGESTED THAT

THE PRESIDENT PURSUE MILITARY AID REQUEST WITH THE GERMANS AND LET ME CONCENTRATE ON THOSE AID AND INVESTMENT AREAS WHERE WASHINGTON AND EMBASSY CAN TRY TO BE RECEPTIVE IN CONTRIBUTING TO DAHOMEY'S DEVELOPMENT.

3. KEREKOU APPRECIATED CONGRESSIONAL MOOD THAT RULED OUT POSSIBILITY OF GRANT AID, SAID FMS PROGRAM A NONSTARTER BECAUSE OF COST, AND AGREED TO PURSUE REQUEST WITH GERMANS. HE IS MOST GRATEFUL OF WHAT WE ARE DOING TO HELP DAHOMEY, AND FACT HE NOW REALIZES WE CANNOT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO MILITARY AID REQUEST WILL HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH MRGD. WE AGREED I WOULD INFORM FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE OF OUR CONVERSATION ON HIS RETURN TO COTONOU.

4. FYI: AMBASSADOR WAND HOPES TO RECEIVE WORD SOON THAT BONN PREPARED TO GRANT MRGD THREE MILLION DEUTSCHEMARKS FOR PURCHASE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT PENDING DAHOMEY'S PARTICIPATION IN FRG'S MILITARY AID PROGRAM. BECAUSE OF NECESSITY TO WORK OUT ADMINISTRATIVE, BUDGET AND OTHER DETAILS REGULAR PROGRAM FOR DAHOMEY WOULD BEGIN IN ABOUT TWO YEARS. END FYI.

ANDERSON

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